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REPORT ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF USING NEW EDITING PROCEDURES, ON SAMPLING ERROR SPECIFICATIONS, AND ON PREPARING A "CHARACTERISTIC" REPORT BASED ON A FULL-YEAR FILE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For technical analyses of the Food Stamp Program (FSP), the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the United States Department of Agriculture often relies on the Integrated Quality Control System (IQCS). In the past, FNS has provided estimates of key characteristics of FSP participants based on a two-month sample of food stamp households from the IQCS. In the future, FNS will provide these characteristics based on a full-year analysis file.

MPR will prepare this full-year analysis file and the text and tables for a report on the characteristics of FSP participants. We will use the same editing procedures we have used in the past to edit the full-year file, compute the sample weights for the file and weight each of the 12 monthly samples independently, and use the same methods we have used in the past to specify sampling error estimates. To produce the tables for the "Characteristics" reports, we will switch from SAS to TPL, which is a more efficient software package. Finally, we propose following the basic content and format of previous "Characteristics" reports for the 1989 report. However, we propose including a section in Chapter 3 on seasonal variations in the data and a section which compares summer 1988 data to summer 1989 data.

Thus, the procedures involved in preparing a full-year file and a "Characteristics" report based on this file are the same as past procedures except for a slightly different weighting scheme, the use of TPL instead of SAS for table production, and a few adjustments to the report format focusing on seasonal changes within the year and changes between years.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the United States Department of Agriculture relies on various databases to estimate the impact of proposed changes to the Food Stamp Program (FSP), to assess the effects of program reforms, and to provide independent estimates of the key characteristics of FSP participants. One of the most relevant and accessible databases which FNS relies on for these program analyses is the Integrated Quality Control System (IQCS). While the primary purpose of the IQCS is to measure the accuracy of eligibility and benefit amount determinations, the IQCS also provides FNS with an ongoing sample of FSP case records for analytic purposes.

In the past, a two-month sample from the IQCS has been used to provide estimates of key characteristics of FSP participants. In the future, however, these estimates will be based on a full-year sample from the IQCS. In this report, we discuss the data file development and analyses processes involved in, as well as the implications of, preparing a full-year file and using the full-year file to produce estimates of the characteristics of FSP participants. Since this report includes a discussion of the implications of using new editing procedures and a discussion of sampling error specifications, it serves as two deliverables.

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and 4) documenting this process. Next, we discuss in detail these steps and any minor adjustments needed for the preparation of a full-year file.

A. EDITING THE FILE

The process of editing the IQCS analysis file requires resolving inconsistencies in the data which can be rooted in the initial data from the recipient household, the entry of the data into the computerized master case record system, the extraction of food stamp information from the IQCS, or a failure to update some items in the case record file. The objective of this editing process is to create an analysis file which is consistent and easily manipulated yet fully representative of the underlying survey data. Our current editing strategy, discussed in detail in Anderson (1988) and summarized below, results in a consistent file which best reflects the reported data. Since our current editing scheme is not dependent on time periods or sample sizes, it is fully applicable to a full-year file.

Our editing strategy includes procedures for discovering inconsistencies in the data, for recoding missing data, for determining out of range values, and for making any recodes necessary for producing a consistent file conducive to analysis. Our editing strategy also ensures that various measures of household size, income and benefits are consistent. For example, the raw data file contains two measures of households size: 1) a reported certified household size and 2) an affiliation flag for each person in the household from which a household size can be calculated. An effective editing strategy ensures that these two measures are consistent.

Our editing scheme ensures this consistency by following the steps below:

Step 1: We first use the affiliation flags on each person in the household to construct a final measure of household size.

Step 2: We then calculate a measure of household gross income by adding all affiliated persons' non-excluded incomes. If this value is the same as reported household gross income, we use it as the final household gross income and we calculate the earnings deduction as 20 percent of person-level earnings and net income and benefit level

based on these values. For cases where the constructed and reported gross incomes differ, we move to Step 3.

Step 3: We construct two different scenarios of net income and benefit values basing one scenario on the reported household gross income and the other scenario on the summation of the person-level gross income. We use reported household gross income and reported earned income deduction to compute one scenario of net income and benefit values that we call Series 1. We use person-level gross income and a calculated earned income to compute an alternative scenario of net income and benefit values, called Series 2.

Step 4: We then compare these two scenarios against the reported information that is recorded on the data file to determine which is most consistent. If the reported household gross income implies one or both of reported net income and benefit level, but the person-level value does not, we use the Series 1 values. If the person-level gross income implies one or both of reported net income and benefit level, but the reported household gross income does not, we use the Series 2 values. If both imply the same, we use Series 2 values. If neither gross income measure implies reported net income or benefit level, we choose the series that implies values closest to both net income and benefit level, adjusting reported benefit by the error amount. The series that implies values closest to both the reported benefit and net income is defined based on a distance function $(\text{implied benefit} - \text{reported benefit})^2 + (\text{implied net income} - \text{reported net income})^2$.

Step 5: We reconcile person-level earnings with the chosen earned income deduction if necessary. If the difference is only a dollar (due to rounding), we adjust the first person's earnings by a dollar. If the difference is greater than a dollar, we adjust earnings proportionally across affiliated persons. If the difference is equal to one person's reported income, we remove that person's income. Finally, if no earnings are reported, we adjust the "other earned income" category for the household head.

Step 6: Person-level amounts (other than earnings) are reconciled with the chosen gross income measure in the same manner as the person-level earned income amounts.

Step 7: Lastly, we sum all person-level income amounts to obtain final household-level income amounts and benefits. This summation ensures that all required relationships hold among the final variables.

This editing strategy (also detailed in Figure I) obtains a high degree of consistency between person-level and household level data and ensures the integrity of the database. Again, because this editing scheme does not depend on time periods or sample sizes, it is fully applicable to a full-year file with no implications.

FIGURE 1 QC EDITING SCHEME

Step 1: Determine FSP household size
Step 2: Sum income across persons
Step 3: Calculate alternative household-level (SERIES 1) and person-level (SERIES 2) income amounts

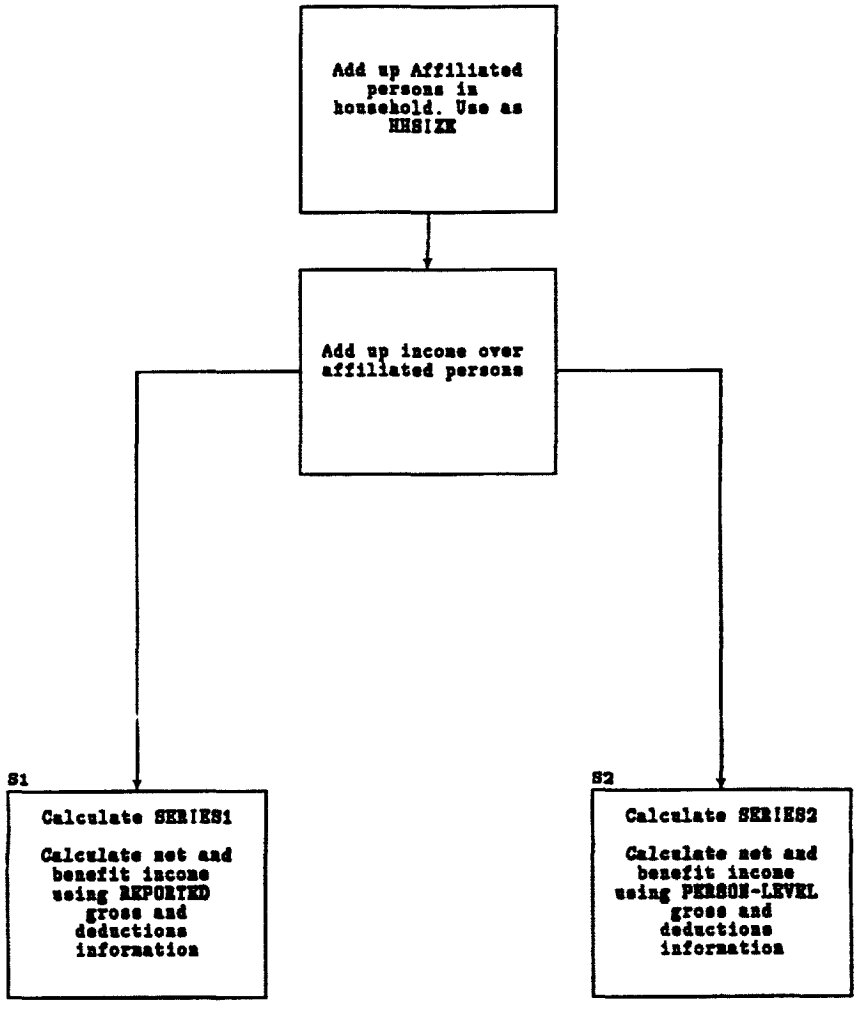
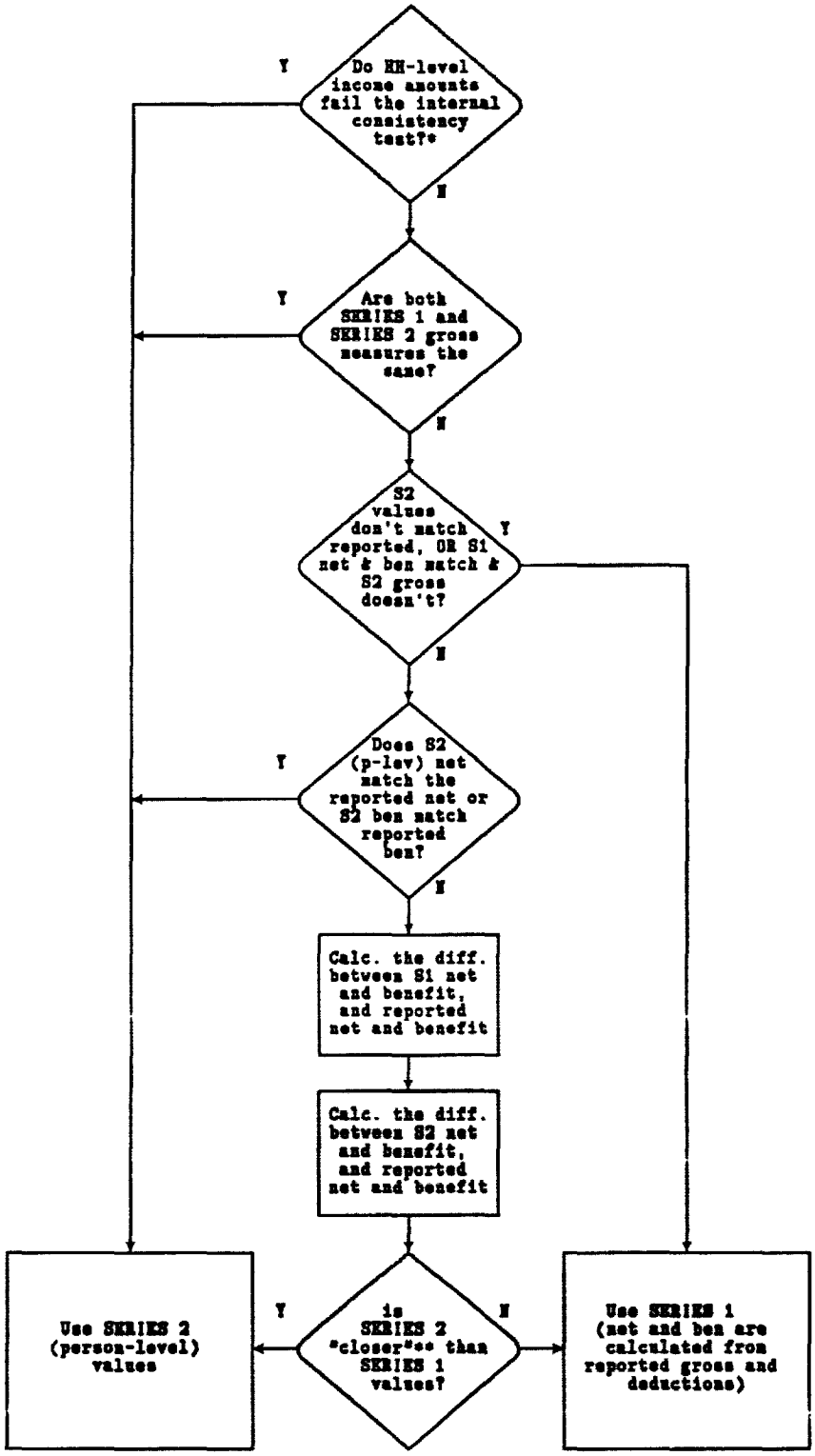


FIGURE 1 QC EDITING SCHEME - CON'T.

Step 4: Determine which series is most consistent with reported bonus and net income information



* Is the implied earnings deduction based on the reported gross income less than the reported earnings deduction?

** "Closer" means that:

$$(\text{S2 ben} - \text{report.ben})^2 + (\text{S2 net} - \text{report.net})^2 < (\text{S1 ben} - \text{report.ben})^2 + (\text{S1 net} - \text{report.net})^2 .$$

FIGURE 1 QC EDITING SCHEME - CON'T.

Step 5: Reconcile the person-level earnings with the selected earned income deduction (as decided in Step 4)
Step 6: Reconcile the person-level unearned income with the selected household -level unearned income (as decided in Step 4)
Step 7: Calculate all final values

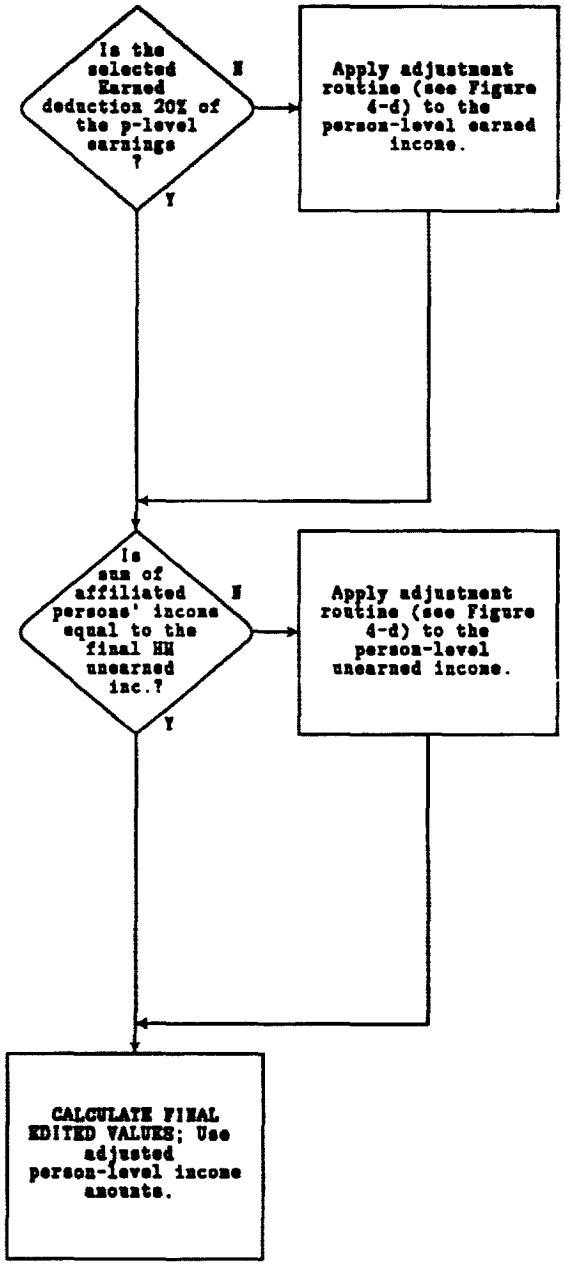


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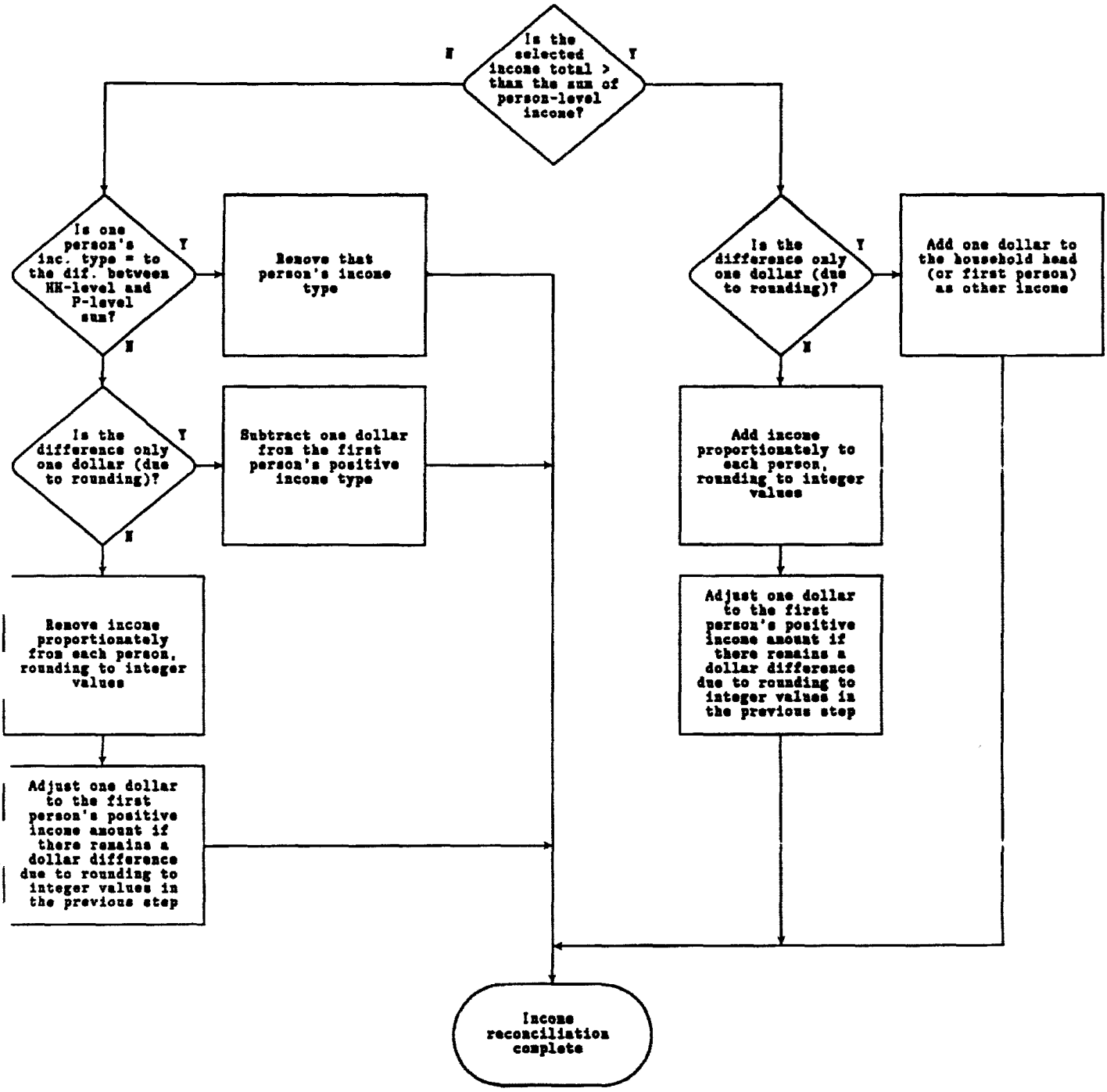
FIGURE 1 PERSON-LEVEL INCOME ADJUSTMENT ROUTINE

(Adjust person-level income to match selected household gross income)



The edited person-level income sum is now equal to the edited household-level income total.

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B. WEIGHTING THE SAMPLES

Samples from the IQCS are weighted so that they represent the national caseload. To obtain a full representation of the national food stamp caseload, the state samples are assigned weights according to the number of participating households in each state as reported to FNS. Specifically, the weights for each state sample are derived by dividing the state's caseload in a certain month by the state's sample size in that same month. The final weighted caseloads are then calculated by multiplying the weights by the sample sizes. The weights for several states are adjusted to reflect the disproportionately stratified QC sample designs in those states. For these stratified states, a separate weight is obtained for each stratum. Specifically, the state monthly caseload is divided into stratum shares and then these shares are divided by the sample sizes for each stratum.[2]

In the past, FNS has supplied us with the final weights for the two-month sample based on area and stratum and on an average caseload over the two months. As we prepare the 1989 full-year file, however, we will compute the weights for each of the 12 independent monthly samples in the full-year file. Specifically, FNS will supply us with the information necessary to compute the weights (caseload information from program operations data and sampling plans for each state). We will then compute these weights by state and by stratum code as described above for each of the 12 independent samples in the full-year file.

Our new procedures differ slightly from past procedures, then, because we will compute the weights instead of FNS, and we will compute them for each month instead of for a set of months. Weighting each month independently gives FNS the flexibility to base FSP analyses on one month, a set of months, or on all 12 months because the weights must simply be divided by the number of months chosen. For example, when the full-year file is used for analysis purposes,

[2]See Appendix B for an example of weights developed for the Summer 1988 file.

the weights must simply be divided by 12; when a two-month sample from the full-year is used, the weights must simply be divided by two.

C. SPECIFYING SAMPLING ERROR

Since the estimates of the characteristics of food stamp households are based on a sample of households, the estimates are subject to sampling error. One important indicator of the magnitude of the sampling error associated with a given estimate is its standard error. Standard errors measure the variation in estimated values which would be observed if multiple replications of the sample were drawn.

In consultation with a sampling statistician, MPR has computed standard errors associated with the estimated values of key variables for the 1986 and 1987 "Characteristics" reports.[3] In addition, we have outlined methods for estimating the standard error of other variables for which standard errors have not been calculated directly. After consulting with a sampling statistician and reviewing our current procedures used to estimate the standard errors of variables contained in the two-month extracts, MPR has determined that our current procedures are fully applicable to a full-year file. Therefore, we will maintain these procedures for specifying sampling errors when processing the 1989 full-year file.

D. DOCUMENTING THE PROCESS

The final step in producing the full-year analysis file will be to fully document the process and to deliver the full-year file in SAS format to FNS. MPR will produce documentation that provides a full description of 1) each variable on each file and its source, indicating whether it was reported or constructed, plus the weights and program parameters of the file; and 2) each

[3]See U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1990, for a discussion of procedures used to estimate the standard errors.

edit that was undertaken, including the nature of the editing problem and the steps taken to correct it, also documented in a flow chart.

III. PREPARATION OF THE "CHARACTERISTICS" REPORT BASED ON THE FULL-YEAR FILE

In the past, FNS has issued reports entitled Characteristics of Food Stamp Households based on the IQCS files described above. These reports describe in detail the demographic and economic characteristics of FSP participants, identify patterns in the characteristics of FSP participants and recent economic developments which could affect them, and assess the reliability of the estimates and the sample. MPR will prepare the tables and text for the upcoming "Characteristics" reports based on full-year IQCS analysis files. Below, we discuss the production of the tables upon which these reports are based and our proposed redesign of the 1989 "Characteristics" report to reflect the switch to the full-year file.

A. TABLE PRODUCTION

The analysis files described above are particularly well-suited for producing tables of food stamp household characteristics. In the past, MPR has used SAS programs on micro computers to generate over 60 tables for the "Characteristics" reports. For the full-year file, MPR will switch from using SAS programs to using TPL programs to generate the full-year file tables. TPL programs produce the statistics needed for the tables ten times faster than SAS. This increase in efficiency is especially important for processing the full-year file since the volume of records we will process is six times larger than a two-month file. SAS, for example, takes approximately twenty minutes on a fast 386 personal computer to generate Appendix A Table 2 of the "Characteristics" report, while TPL takes approximately two minutes to generate the same table. The TPL tables will then be imported into WordPerfect table shells, thereby providing the formating power of WordPerfect while bypassing the time-consuming process of data and table shell transcription and typing. This conversion from SAS to TPL will simply expedite the table

production process, allow it to remain on the most cost effective micro computers, and will not influence any other aspect of the data file development or report preparation.

B. REPORT FORMAT

MPR will follow the basic content and format of the recent "Characteristics" reports, but will modify the text and tables to reflect data from the 1989 full-year file as well as trends and seasonal variations in the data. As shown in Figure II, our proposed changes to the format of the report focus on the analysis of changes in food stamp household characteristics (Chapter 3) and on additional text tables which reflect seasonal variations in the data. All the existing appendix tables can remain unchanged; they will simply contain yearly averages instead of two-month averages.

Since this report will be the first based on a full-year file, it is important to investigate seasonal changes in food stamp household characteristics. We propose analyzing seasonal changes in the following food stamp household characteristics:

- Average gross and net monthly income, average total deduction, average countable resources, average monthly FSP benefit, average household size and average certification period
- Poverty status of participating households
- Average values of deductions from gross income (standard, earned, dependent care, excess shelter and total deduction)
- Distribution of households by average monthly food stamp benefit
- Changes in the food stamp caseload composition (households with children, elderly, disabled, earners, and public assistance)

These characteristics are contained in 5 draft table shells (see Appendix C).

In the past, data on selected food stamp household characteristics were compared from summer to summer to identify trends in the characteristics from year to year. For the upcoming

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FIGURE II

PROPOSED CONTENTS OF THE REPORT ENTITLED "CHARACTERISTICS OF FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS: 1989"

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*Our proposed changes focus on this chapter.

FIGURE II (continued)

FIGURES

TABLES

APPENDIXES

1989 "Characteristics" report, we cannot easily compare the 1989 data, which are based on the full-year file, to earlier years, which are based on two-month summer samples. Therefore, we propose generating data for the summer months of 1989 to compare to the summer data of 1988. Specifically, we would generate summer data for 1989 on income, deductions, benefits, and household composition. (Appendix D contains the table shells we would replicate for the summer of 1989; they are identical to the tables in Chapter 3 of the "Characteristics of Food Stamp Households: Summer 1987.") For later reports, this additional effort would not be necessary; we would simply compare data based on full-year files from year to year.

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APPENDIX A: INTEGRATED REVIEW SCHEDULE

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Form Approved
OMB No. 0960-0313

(For Optional State Use)

INTEGRATED REVIEW SCHEDULE

PRIVACY ACT/PAPERWORK NOTICE ACT: This report is required under provisions of 45 CFR 205.40 (AFDC), 7 CFR 275.14 (Food Stamp), and 42 CFR 431.800 (Medicaid). This information is needed for the review of State performance in determining recipient eligibility. The information is used to determine State compliance, and failure to report may result in a finding of non-compliance.

I. REVIEW SUMMARY

1. Review Number
1a. Case Number
2. State and Local Agency Codes
3. Sample Month and Year
4. Stratum
5. Review Type
6. Disposition — AFDC/ADULT | FS | MA
7. Review Findings — AFDC/ADULT | FS
8. Amount of Error — AFDC/ADULT | FS

II. CASE INFORMATION

	9. Most Recent Opening	9a. Prior Assistance	10. Most Recent Action	11. Type of Action	12. No. of Case Members	13. Liquid Assets	14. Real Property (Excl. Home)	15. Countable Vehicle Assets	16. Other Non-Liquid Assets
ADULT									
AFDC									
FS									
MA									

CASE INFORMATION - AFDC/ADULT

17. Monthly Payment Standard
18. Sample Month's Payment
19. Restricted Payment Status
20. Unborn Child
21. Shelter Arrangement
22. Gross Countable Income
23. Work-Related Expenses
24. Child or Dependent Care Disregard
25. First $30 and 1/3 of Remainder
26. Net Countable Income

CASE INFORMATION - FOOD STAMP

27. Case Classification
28. Months in Certif. Period
29. Coupon Allotment
30. Exped. Service
31. Auth. Rep.
32. Gross Countable Income
33. Earned Income Deduction
34. Medical Cost
35. Shelter Cost
36. Dependent Care Cost
37. Net Countable Income

CASE INFORMATION - MEDICAID

38. Medical Expenses Used to Meet Spenddown — Type | Amount
39. Gross Countable Income
40. Net Countable Income

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REVIEW NUMBER

III. DETAILED PERSON - LEVEL INFORMATION

41. Person Number	42. Food Stamp Case Aff.	43. AFDC/MA Case Aff.	44. Relationship to Head of Household	45. Age	46. Sex	47. Race	48. Citizenship Status	49. Education Level	50. WIN and FS Work Reg.	51. Employment Status	52. Institutional Status

IV. TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME, BY HOUSEHOLD MEMBER AND TYPE AND AMOUNT OF INCOME

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REVIEW NUMBER | (For Optional State Use)

V. ELIGIBILITY REVIEW INFORMATION - MEDICAID

62. Eligibility Coverage Codes		63. Initial Case Eligibility Status	64. Initial Case Liability Error	65. Amount of Excess Resources
Agency	OC			

VI. DETAILED ERROR FINDINGS

66. Program Identification	67. Error Finding		68. Case Members with Errors (MA)	69. Element	70. Nature Code	71. Agency or Client	72. Dollar Amount	73. Discovery	74. Verification	75. Occurrence	
										Date	Time Period

76. Ineligible Persons with Federal Matching (AFDC Overpayment Case)	Counted	Not Counted

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REVIEW NUMBER	(For Optional State Use)

VII. PAYMENT REVIEW INFORMATION - MEDICAID

77. Dollar Amount of Paid Claims	78. Final Case Elig. Status	79. Revised Initial Case Liability Error	80. Spend-down Months	81. Total Claims Used in Offset Initial LU Errors	82. Final Dollar Amount of Case Liability Errors	83. Final Dollar Amount of Case Eligibility Errors

VIII. OPTIONAL - FOR STATE SYSTEMS ONLY

1.
2.
3.
4.

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APPENDIX B: WEIGHTS FOR A TWO-MONTH SAMPLE

July and August 1988 Integrated Quality Control System Data
Computation of Sample Weights
IQCS0788.CAL
11/ 8/1989

STATE	FIPS	STRATUM	PARTIC JULY 1988	PARTIC AUGUST 1988	JULY/AUG AVERAGE MONTHLY HH (UNADJ)	STRATUM SHARE	JULY/AUG AVERAGE MONTHLY HH (ADJUSTED)	SAMPLE SIZE	UNROUNDED	ROUNDED	WEIGHT TIMES SAMPLE SIZE
Connecticut	9		39,327	40,447	39,887		39,887	135	295.4593	295	39,825
Maine	23		36,155	36,035	36,095		36,095	135	267.3704	267	36,045
Massachussetts	25		130,116	132,092	131,104						
		3				.5086	66,679	54	1,234.8055	1,235	66,690
		20				.4914	64,425	152	423.8454	424	64,448
New Hampshire	33		8,889	9,027	8,958		8,958	79	113.3924	113	8,927
New York	36		658,350	657,824	658,087		658,087	219	3,004.9635	3,005	658,095
Rhode Island	44		24,554	24,575	24,565		24,565	152	161.6086	162	24,624
Vermont	50		14,389	14,405	14,397		14,397	61	236.0164	236	14,396
Delaware	10		10,642	10,689	10,666		10,666	50	213.3100	213	10,650
District of Columbia	11		25,510	25,260	25,385		25,385	94	270.0532	270	25,380
Maryland	24		103,754	95,936	99,845		99,845	204	489.4363	489	99,756
New Jersey	34		135,470	134,928	135,199		135,199	408	331.3701	331	135,048
Pennsylvania	42		383,415	391,843	387,629		387,629	200	1,938.1450	1,938	387,600
Virginia	51		133,649	134,074	133,862		133,862	241	555.4419	555	133,755
Virgin Islands	78		4,745	4,531	4,638		4,638	49	94.6531	95	4,655
West Virginia	54		90,686	91,276	90,981						
		1				.7444	67,726	122	555.1332	555	67,710
		2				.2556	23,255	73	318.5581	319	23,287
Alabama	1		152,535	152,280	152,408		152,408	293	520.1621	520	152,360
Florida	12		240,814	247,446	244,130		244,130	370	659.8108	660	244,200
Georgia	13		170,915	174,084	172,500		172,500	183	942.6202	943	172,569
Kentucky	21		164,480	164,479	164,480		164,480	270	609.1833	609	164,430
Mississippi	28		167,635	168,299	167,967		167,967	213	788.5775	789	168,057
North Carolina	37		150,946	150,473	150,710		150,710	199	757.3342	757	150,643
South Carolina	45		89,962	89,351	89,657		89,657	299	299.8545	300	89,700
Tennessee	47		184,369	187,238	185,804		185,804	214	868.2407	868	185,752
Illinois	17		408,673	411,634	410,154						
		24				.1404	57,586	123	468.1752	468	57,564
		25				.1072	43,968	91	483.1698	483	43,953
		26				.1311	53,771	78	689.3734	689	53,742
		42				.6213	254,828	200	1,274.1418	1,274	254,800
Indiana	18		100,670	100,487	100,579		100,579	188	534.9920	535	100,580
Michigan	26		359,060	359,261	359,161		359,161	312	1,151.1554	1,151	359,112
Minnesota	27		94,464	95,291	94,878		94,878	207	458.3454	458	94,806
Ohio	39		439,859	440,017	439,938		439,938	211	2,085.0142	2,085	439,935
Wisconsin	55		103,149	102,448	102,799						
		6				.2215	22,770	53	429.6201	430	22,790
		14				.0788	8,101	30	270.0174	270	8,100
		22				.6997	71,928	247	291.2069	291	71,877
Arkansas	5		80,825	81,172	80,999		80,999	212	382.0684	382	80,984
Louisiana	22		236,746	237,485	237,116		237,116	197	1,203.6320	1,204	237,188
New Mexico	35		45,736	45,687	45,712		45,712	177	258.2571	258	45,666
Oklahoma	40		105,413	103,573	104,493		104,493	217	481.5346	482	104,594
Texas	48		492,165	495,171	493,668						
		1				.0411	20,290	15	1,352.6503	1,353	20,295
		3				.0745	36,778	15	2,451.8844	2,452	36,780
		4				.0359	17,723	16	1,107.6676	1,108	17,728
		5				.1196	59,043	29	2,035.9549	2,036	59,044
		6				.0804	39,691	16	2,480.6817	2,481	39,696
		7				.0584	28,830	15	1,922.0141	1,922	28,830
		8				.2045	100,955	30	3,365.1702	3,365	100,950
		9				.1201	59,290	28	2,117.4831	2,117	59,276
		10				.0594	29,324	14	2,094.5628	2,095	29,330
		11				.2061	101,745	27	3,768.3324	3,768	101,736
Colorado	8		78,073	78,892	78,483						
		6				.6582	51,657	104	496.7037	497	51,688
		14				.0268	2,103	28	75.1190	75	2,100
		21				.3150	24,722	98	252.2652	252	24,696
Iowa	19		67,357	67,098	67,228		67,228	200	336.1375	336	67,200
Kansas	20		44,441	44,980	44,711		44,711	154	290.3279	290	44,660

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Missouri----------	29		144,668	146,787	145,728		145,728	420	34		
Montana----------	30		21,187	20,412	20,800						
		2				.6421	13,355	96	142.0783	142	13,348
		21				.3579	7,444	33	225.5800	226	7,458
Nebraska----------	31		35,981	35,755	35,868		35,868	126	284.6667	285	35,910
North Dakota--------	38		13,209	13,156	13,183		13,183	57	231.2719	231	13,167
South Dakota--------	46		16,600	16,600	16,600		16,600	106	156.6038	157	16,642
Utah----------	49		31,677	32,352	32,015		32,015	124	258.1815	258	31,992
Wyoming----------	56		9,684	9,269	9,477		9,477	53	178.8019	179	9,487
Alaska----------	2		9,113	8,665	8,889		8,889	47	189.1277	189	8,883
Arizona----------	4		78,879	81,250	80,065		80,065	391	204.7685	205	80,155
California----------	6		584,000	591,000	587,500		587,500	384	1,529.9479	1,530	587,520
Guam----------	66		3,437	3,513	3,475		3,475	53	65.5660	66	3,498
Hawaii----------	15		31,481	30,865	31,173		31,173	116	268.7328	269	31,204
Idaho----------	16		20,736	20,815	20,776		20,776	114	182.2412	182	20,748
Nevada----------	32		17,204	17,338	17,271		17,271	99	174.4545	174	17,226
Oregon----------	41		87,354	87,133	87,244						
		20				.2497	21,785	142	153.4134	153	21,726
		40				.7503	65,459	245	267.1788	267	65,415
Washington----------	53		124,660	124,939	124,800		124,800	392	318.3661	318	124,656
United States-------			7,007,808	7,039,637	7,023,723		7,023,723	10,797	55,734.9553	55,733	7,023,077

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APPENDIX C: TABLE SHELLS FOR SEASONAL COMPARISONS

Table 7--Seasonal comparison of average values of selected characteristics, 1989[a]

	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Total
Gross monthly income					
Net monthly income					
Total deduction					
Countable resources					
Monthly benefit					
Household size					
Certification period					

[a]Fall refers to October through December, Winter refers to January through March, Spring refers to April through June and Summer refers to July through September.

Source: 1989 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 8--Seasonal comparison of the poverty status of participating households, 1989[a]
(percent of all households)

Gross income as a percentage of poverty	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Total
50% or less					
51 - 100%					
101 - 150%					
151% or more					
Number of households (in thousands)					

[a]Fall refers to October through December, Winter refers to January through March, Spring refers to April through June and Summer refers to July through September.

Source: 1989 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 9--Seasonal comparison of the value of deductions from gross income, 1989[a]

Type of deduction	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Total
Standard					
Earned income					
Dependent care					
Excess shelter					
Total deduction					
Number of households (in thousands)					

[a]Fall refers to October through December, Winter refers to January through March, Spring refers to April through June and Summer refers to July through September.

Source: 1989 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 10--Seasonal comparison of the distribution of participating households by amount of monthly food stamp benefit, 1989[a]

Average monthly food stamp benefit	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Total
$50 or less					
51 - 100					
101 - 150					
151 - 200					
201 or more					
Number of households (thousands)					
Mean Benefit					

[a]Fall refers to October through December, Winter refers to January through March, Spring refers to April through June and Summer refers to July through September.

Source: 1989 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 11--Seasonal comparison of food stamp caseload composition, 1989[a]

Households with:	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Total
Children					
Elderly					
Disabled					
Earners					
Public Assistance					
Total					

[a]Fall refers to October through December, Winter refers to January through March, Spring refers to April through June and Summer refers to July through September.

Source: 1989 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

APPENDIX D: TABLE SHELLS FOR YEARLY COMPARISONS

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Table 12--Average nominal and real monthly income of food stamp participants, summer 1988 and summer 1989

	Summer 1988	Summer 1989		Percentage Change	
		Nominal	Real[a]	Nominal	Real
Average gross income					
Per household					
Per person					
Average net income					
Per household					
Per person					

[a]Adjusted by change in CPI for all items between summer 1988 and summer 1989.

Source: Summer 1988 and summer 1989 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

Table 13--Comparison of the poverty status of participating households, summer 1988 and summer 1989
(percent of all households)

Gross income as a percentage of poverty	Summer 1988	Summer 1989
50% or less		
51 - 100%		
101 - 150%		
151% or more		
Number of households (in thousands)		

Source: Summer 1988 and summer 1989 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

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Table 14–Frequency and value of deductions from gross income, summer 1988 and summer 1989

Type of deduction	Percent of households with deduction		Average value of deduction[a]		
	Summer 1988	Summer 1989	Summer 1988	Summer 1989	Percent Change
Standard					
Earned income					
Dependent care					
Excess shelter					
Medical					
Total deduction[b]					
Excluding standard					
Including standard					
Number of households (in thousands)					

[a]For households claiming the deduction.

[b]Average total deduction to which households were entitled. The average deduction actually claimed was $xx in summer 1988, $xx in summer 1989.

Source: Summer 1988 and summer 1989 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

Table 15--Distribution of participating households by amount of monthly food stamp benefit, summer 1988 and summer 1989

Average monthly food stamp benefit	Summer 1988 Nominal	Summer 1989 Nominal	Summer 1989 Real[a]
$50 or less			
51 - 100			
101 - 150			
151 - 200			
201 or more			
Number of households (thousands)			
Mean Benefit			

[a]Benefit adjusted by change in CPI for food at home between summer 1988 and summer 1989.

Source: Summer 1988 and summer 1989 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.